

Filed for intro on 11/03/99

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 4 of the Second Extraordinary Session
By Henry

A RESOLUTION to honor the Gates Learning Foundation and
Microsoft Corporation for their generous support
of Tennessee's Public Libraries.

WHEREAS, there exists a "digital divide", whereby individuals and families living in
economically depressed areas are considerably less likely to have access to computing
resources and Internet access; and

WHEREAS, computer skills are becoming increasingly necessary for success in the
worlds of education and business; and

WHEREAS, Bill and Melinda Gates, through the Gates Learning Foundation, have taken
notice of the "digital divide" and made approximately \$4 million in cash grants available to
Tennessee's Public Libraries; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned grants will be available to Tennessee libraries serving
areas with poverty rates of ten percent or greater; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned grants are to be used exclusively for the purchase of
computer hardware, Internet access, staff training and installation of computer hardware; and

WHEREAS, The Microsoft Corporation is contributing a separate gift of approximately \$3
million in software for the computer equipment; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the generous grants, the Gates Center for Technology Access
will provide technical support for a period of three years; and

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WHEREAS, in 1998, the Gates Learning Foundation made cash grants worth more than \$320,000 in computer hardware, software, installation, and training to the public library systems in Memphis and Nashville; and

WHEREAS, this worthwhile effort will benefit each and every citizen of Tennessee with access to a public library by opening a world of information and personal computer use; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That the State of Tennessee expresses its thanks to Bill and Melinda Gates for their generous contributions to the citizens of Tennessee through their support of our public libraries.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.